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 APPRV: CHG:LJLANGE
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 CLEAR: PAO:PPATIN
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ADDIS FOR A/S SHATTUCK

E.O. 12356: N/A
 TAGS: PREF, OTRA, BJ
 SUBJECT: A/S SHATTUCK VISIT TO BURUNDI

REF: STATE 116910

1. PROPOSED PUBLIC AFFAIRS STATEMENT FOR BURUNDI
 FOLLOWS. FRENCH TEXT PARA 2.

BEGIN TEXT:

PRESIDENT CLINTON ASKED ME TO UNDERTAKE THIS SPECIAL MISSION TO THE REGION IN LIGHT OF AMERICAN CONCERN OVER THE TRAGIC SITUATION IN RWANDA AND TO EXPLORE WITH LEADERS IN THE REGION HOW THE BLOODSHED MIGHT BE STOPPED IN THAT COUNTRY.

AN IMPORTANT PART OF MY MISSION TO BURUNDI IS TO REASSURE BURUNDI'S POLITICAL AND MILITARY LEADERS OF THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES FOR THE PROCESS OF NATIONAL RECONCILIATION AND STRENGTHENING OF DEMOCRACY AND DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN BURUNDI. WE COMPLIMENT BURUNDIANS AND THEIR LEADERS FOR THE CALM WHICH PREVAILS THROUGH THE SAD EVENTS IN RWANDA WHICH COULD THREATEN STABILITY IN THE WHOLE SUBREGION. WHILE PRESIDENT CLINTON HAS CONVEYED HIS APPRECIATION TO BURUNDI, HE ASKED ME TO PERSONALLY EXPRESS TO ALL BURUNDIANS HIS PROFOUND GRATITUDE AND THAT OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR THE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE PROVIDED BY BURUNDI IN THE EVACUATION FROM RWANDA OF AMERICANS AND OTHER FOREIGN NATIONALS IN APRIL.

LASTLY, I WISH TO STATE MY GOVERNMENT'S FIRM HOPE THAT BURUNDI, AND OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE SUBREGION, WILL ASSIST IN COLLECTIVE EFFORTS TO FIND A SOLUTION TO THE SITUATION IN RWANDA. THE UNITED STATES APPRECIATES THE DIFFICULTIES YOU FACE IN THIS TASK; WE PLEDGE OUR COOPERATION IN THIS SIZABLE HUMANITARIAN UNDERTAKING.

2. FOLLOWING IS FRENCH TRANSLATION -

LE PRESIDENT CLINTON M'A DEMANDE D'ENTREPRENDRE
 CETTE MISSION SPECIALE DANS LA REGION, VU LA

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE

REVIEW AUTHORITY: CHARLES L. DARIS

DATE/CASE ID: 21 APR 2003 200201521

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PRÉOCCUPATION DES AMÉRICAINS FACE A LA SITUATION TRAGIQUE QUI PREVAUT AU RWANDA, ET AFIN DE CHERCHER AVEC LES DIRIGEANTS DES PAYS DE LA REGION DES SOLUTIONS QUI METTRAIENT FIN A L'EFFUSION DE SANG DE CE PAYS.

UN ASPECT IMPORTANT DE MA MISSION AU BURUNDI EST DE RASSURER LES DIRIGEANTS POLITIQUES ET MILITAIRES BURUNDAIS DU SOUTIEN CONTINU DES ETATS-UNIS AU PROCESSUS DE RECONCILIATION NATIONALE ET AU RENFORCEMENT DE LA DEMOCRATIE ET DES INSTITUTIONS DEMOCRATIQUES AU BURUNDI. NOUS FELICITONS LES BURUNDAIS ET LEURS LEADERS DU CALME QUI PREVAUT, MALGRE LES EVENEMENTS ECOEURANTS AU RWANDA QUI MENACENT LA STABILITE DE LA SOUS-REGION. AU MEME TEMPS QUE LE PRESIDENT CLINTON A TRANSMIS SES REMERCIEMENTS AU BURUNDI, IL M'A EGALLEMENT DEMANDE DE TRANSMETTRE SA GRATITUDE PROFONDE, ET CELLE DE TOUT LE PEUPLE AMERICAIN, POUR LA COLLABORATION BENEVOLE DE LA PART DU BURUNDI PENDANT L'EVACUATION DU RWANDA DES AMÉRICAINS ET D'AUTRES RESSORTISSANTS ETRANGERS EN AVRIL.

EN DERNIER LIEU, J'AIMERAIS EXPRIMER L'ESPOIR DE MON GOUVERNEMENT QUE LE BURUNDI, AUSSI BIEN QUE LES AUTRES PAYS DE LA SOUS-REGION, PARTICIPERONT A L'EFFORT COLLECTIF DE TROUVER UNE SOLUTION A LA SITUATION AU RWANDA. LES ETATS-UNIS SONT SENSIBLES AUX DIFFICULTES AUXQUELLES VOUS DEVEZ FAIRE FACE DANS CETTE TACHE. NOUS VOUS ASSURONS DE NOTRE COOPERATION DANS CET EFFORT HUMANITAIRE ENORME.

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